

Chronological Highlights

January ~ *Housebreak epidemic ignites*

The first month of the year marked the beginning of a year plagued with housebreaks. A 180% increase was registered in housebreaks from last year with patterns emerging in the Inman/Harrington & Mid-Cambridge, Cambridgeport & Riverside, and Agassiz/Peabody.



Agassiz neighborhood, traditionally a quiet neighborhood, experienced a significant increase, recording a 74% increase.

February ~ *First homicide of 2002*



Jason Girouard, 32, of Waltham was arrested for manslaughter following the death of a male victim. The victim died on 2/22/02 after eleven days in the intensive care unit from massive head trauma that resulted from an incident on 2/11/02 at Hi-Fi Pizza in Central Square.

March ~ Man sentenced to life for killing baby daughter

The Boston Globe 3/13/02

John Forbes was sentenced to life in prison on for the beating death of his 11-month-old daughter. Middlesex Superior Court Judge Susan Garsh imposed the sentence after Forbes changed his plea to guilty. Forbes, 31, was convicted of second-degree murder and is eligible for parole after 15 years. Cambridge police and fire authorities responded to an emergency call on Jan. 6, 2001 at Forbes' home, where Forbes was home alone with his twin daughters. Jalecyia Coleman was transported to Cambridge City Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, where she died the next day. An autopsy revealed that the baby died of head injuries. He was indicted in February of last year. Forbes began serving his sentence Monday at MCI-Cedar Junction.

April ~ *Harvard Square diners and shoppers targeted by thieves*



Harvard Square, a shopping and dining mecca, was the hotspot of pickpockets and thieves. While shoppers and diners were distracted, the perpetrators would reach into the unknowing patrons' purses or coats and steal their wallets and use their credit cards quickly before the victims can report their credit cards stolen. The hot target was the food court at The Garage.

May ~ *Bike thefts get hot as the weather warms*



During this month, bike thefts throughout Cambridge began to heat up. The Cambridgeport and Area 4 neighborhoods were hit the hardest. After being locked to stationary structures, many bikes were dismantled or property damaged in order to remove the bike from the secured location the bike was locked.

June ~ *Two murders reported in three days in mid-June*

On June 17th a Malden man was found shot in the head while sitting in the driver's seat of his Infiniti. The victim, Ricardo Williams, was found lifeless sitting at 167 Windsor Street in his vehicle.

Two days later, a Cambridge man attempted to blame two black men for the gunshot death of his best friend. Andrew Power-Koch later admitted to shooting his friend under the Leonard Russell Bridge and was arraigned for the death of the victim, Sean Howard.

July ~ December, 2002

July ~ Brothers arrested in separate incidents for housebreaks

Three housebreak suspects were arrested in two separate incidents; two of which were brothers. On July 1, a chronic housebreak offender was arrested while Oxford Street attempting to break into an apartment and was suspected of a rash of breaks on the Somerville border.



On July 26, the culprit's brother and an accomplice were seen in the basement of an apartment building on Linnaean Street and arrested after they had fled the building. These two men were suspected in a series of breaks where the bicycles were targeted. Following these arrests, particularly the July 1st break, the housebreak pattern nearly halted, ending the summer housebreak pattern.

August ~ Escalated number of thefts from motor vehicles



During August a sizeable 111 larcenies from motor vehicles were reported, just one shy of July's total. This influx is a 147% increase from August 2001. The thefts concentrated on the Somerville border in Inman Square and in Central Square areas. Four arrests

were made, three in just one incident. The first arrest was a Medford man who was arrested in early August after breaking into a vehicle on Fulkerson and Rogers Streets. Three other men from Cambridge and Boston were arrested in late August on Antrim Street after they were observed breaking into a car.

September ~ Violent street robberies strike Area 4 overnight



Three violent street robberies took place in a 3-hour span on September 18. In two incidents, the suspects viciously hit the victims when demanding money and searching their persons for any possessions. The third incident is unrelated and appeared a homeless man hit the unknowing victim in the head in order to go through the victim's belongings.

October ~ SIXTH MURDER OF THE YEAR

On October 20, the sixth and final murder of 2002 was reported outside an apartment at Newtowne Court. As a result of an altercation, the victim was stabbed and fatally wounded. The suspect turned himself in a day later. This year's total is the highest number of reported homicides in the City since 1989, which yielded seven homicides.

November ~ Bank robbery arrest; Admits to other robberies



Following a rash of bank robberies beginning in October, Shawn Fitzgibbons was arrested on November 5 after robbing a bank on Huron Avenue. In his confession, he admitted to robbing other banks in the Boston area. Eight of the fourteen bank robberies Cambridge experienced were reported in the last three months of the year.

December ~ Street robberies heat up as winter moves in the city



Harvard and Quincy Square area street robberies became the hot pattern for November and December. Eleven robberies alone were reported in one week in the city. The robberies concentrated on Mount Auburn, Brattle, and Church Streets.

The incidents appear to be related in nature, as there are similar descriptions of the youthful suspects. During the nighttime hours, the predatory assailants would approach the victims and violently assault them in order to take the money. In two incidents a knife was produced and an additional three robberies were perpetrated with a handgun.